**🙚 Saint Biographies for Saint Bingo 🙘**

**Saint Mary Magdalen**

First Century

Early Disciple of Christ

Patron Saint of Penitents

Feast Day: July 22

Mary Magdalen was a ***pious*** follower of Christ. When she first met Jesus, she was overcome with sorrow for her sins. She bathed his feet with her tears and anointed them with expensive perfume. Mary Magdalen accompanied Jesus during his travels throughout Galilee. She stood nearby during his crucifixion and, on Easter Sunday morning, she brought spices to his tomb to anoint is body. While searching for his body, she heard a voice cry out, “Mary!” It was Jesus! He had chosen Mary Magdalen to be the first witness of his Resurrection (see John 20:1-18).

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**Saint John the Baptist**

First Century

Last Prophet of the Old Testament

Patron Saint of Converts

Feast Days: June 24 and August 29

John the Baptist was a man of great ***humility***. He described Jesus as a man whose sandals he was not worthy to untie or carry (see Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7; Luke 3:16; John 1:27; Acts 13:25). While on the banks of the Jordan River preaching against the evils of the times and calling people to repent of their sins, John saw Jesus coming toward him. Immediately recognizing Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, John proclaimed, “Behold, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

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**Saint Luke**

First Century

Author of the Third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles

Patron Saint of Physicians and Artists

Feast Day: October 18

Luke was born of Greek parents in Syria, a small country that borders Israel. A physician by trade, Luke became a follower of Jesus after Jesus ascended into heaven. Luke is a constant companion of St. Paul. He traveled with Paul on long missionary journeys and sailed with him when he was taken in chains to Rome. When he was in prison in Rome, Paul felt abandoned because the other disciples had fled. But Luke did not desert him. Loyal and ***steadfast***, Luke remained with Paul.

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**Saint Paul**

First Century

Apostle to the Gentiles

Patron Saint of Missionary Bishops

Feast Days: January 25 and June 29

Paul was one of the great leaders of the early Church. He wrote many of the books in the New Testament; they are called *epistles,* which means “letters.” Paul wrote these letters to the early Christian communities to explain spiritual truths about Jesus. He made long missionary journeys to reach people in faraway lands. He endured sleepless nights and often went hungry. He was stoned, scourged, and shipwrecked. Toward the end of his life, Paul was put in chains and imprisoned. Although abandoned by most of his friends, Paul never gave up ***hope***. He fought the good fight and kept the faith. Saint Paul is buried near the basilica called St. Paul’s Outside the Walls, near Rome.

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**Saint Nicholas**

Third Century

Bishop of Myra (in current-day Turkey)

Patron Saint of Brides and Children

Feast Day: December 6

Nicholas grew up in a small village off the coast of what is now southern Turkey. His wealthy parents died when he was very young, and he inherited a great sum of money. He did not want to keep the wealth for himself. He remembered what Jesus said: “Sell what you own and give it to the poor.” Nicholas used his money to help a man provide for his three daughters. He tossed three bags of gold through a window into the man’s house so that each daughter could have a dowry. Nicholas was ***charitable***. He dedicated his life to helping those who were poor and suffering.

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**Saint Jerome**

345-420

Theologian and Doctor of the Church

Patron Saint of Librarians

Feast Day: September 30

Jerome interpreted and explained Scripture.He spent many years, day and night, as a hermit in a cave in Bethlehem, contemplating the sacred texts. This tedious work required great ***diligence***. Eventually, Jerome translated almost every single book of the Bible from Greek into Latin, the common language of the day.

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**Saint Margaret of Scotland**

1045-1092

Queen of Scotland

Patron Saint of Mothers of Large Families

Feast Day: November 16

Margaret was born in Hungary. She became the wife of Scotland’s King Malcom III. She was the mother of eight children. Margaret was known for her generosity to the poor. She remembered Jesus’ teaching: “When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you” (see Luke 14). Margaret hosted elegant, bountiful feasts for the peasants in her kingdom. She set the tables with fine silver and served as many as 300 guests at a time. When we feed the hungry and give freely to those who cannot pay us back, we can remember the wonderful ***hospitality*** of St. Margaret.

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**Saint Francis of Assisi**

1182-1226

Giant of Holiness

Patron Saint of Animals

Feast Day: October 4

Francis was born into a wealthy family in Assisi, Italy. He took to heart Jesus’ teaching from the Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:3). When he was a young man, Francis left his home and gave away all he had so that he could live a life of poverty. Francis wandered throughout the countryside ***preaching*** the good news of the Gospel.

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**Saint Catherine of Siena**

1347-1380

Advisor to the Pope

Patron Saint of Nurses

Feast Day: April 29

Catherine, the youngest child in a very large family, lived during a period of great political and religious turmoil. There was violence throughout the country, and the pope had moved from his rightful home in Rome to a town in southern France. Catherine served as an instrument of ***peacemaking***. She encouraged government officials and Church leaders to clothe themselves in charity and return to the true, most perfect light of Christ. Catherine spent her last days in Rome near the tomb of St. Peter, offering her prayers and sufferings for the conversion of sinners.

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**Saint Thomas More**

1478-1535

Lord Chancellor of England

Patron Saint of Lawyers and Public Servants

Feast Day: June 22

Thomas was Lord Chancellor of England when King Henry VIII decided to break away from the Catholic Church in 1534. Thomas loved his country, but he loved God even more. He said, “I am the king’s good servant, but God’s first.” When King Henry asked Thomas to declare that the King of England was the only “supreme head of the Church of England,” Thomas said no, that the leader of the Church founded by Christ could be a successor only of St. Peter, the first pope, not a king or an emperor. Thomas was sentenced to death. He was ***merciful*** to those who executed him, looking forward to the day when they would all meet “merrily” together in heaven.

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**Saint Rose of Lima**

1586-1617

Spouse of Christ

Patron Saint of Florists

Feast Day: August 23

Rose was born in Lima, Peru. As a young girl, she spent many hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament adoring Jesus. She liked to pray alone in a little hut in the family garden. Rose helped support her parents by growing flowers and selling them at the markets in town. She set aside a room in her parents’ home to take care of those who were sick and elderly in her neighborhood. Rose endured intense suffering with great ***fortitude***. She was assaulted with many temptations from the devil, and endured a long, painful illness toward the end of her life. Rose offered up her sufferings for sinners. She would pray: “Lord, increase my sufferings, and with them increase your love in my heart.”

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**Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton**

1774-1821

Founder of First Catholic School in the United States

Patron Saint of Widows

Feast Day: January 4

In the early 1800s, Elizabeth Ann Seton became a widow with five children. She started a small Catholic school for girls and, as a devoted teacher, she wrote her students encouraging notes. She delighted in telling them short stories to teach the ways of Christian virtue. Elizabeth wanted her students to remember that happiness can be found only in ***obedience*** to the divine will of God. “What was the first rule of our dear Savior’s life?” she would ask. “You know it was to do the Father’s will,” was the answer. She founded the Sisters of Charity, the first American religious community for women.

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**Saint Bernadette Soubirous**

1844-1879

Visionary of Our Lady

Patron Saint of Lourdes, France, and Those Who Are Sick

Feast Day: April 16

Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes: February 11

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844. Her family lived near Lourdes, a small town in southern France. Her family was very poor. Saint Bernadette had little schooling, and she was often sick. She had difficulty learning her catechism, yet she had the gift of ***faith***. When Bernadette was a young teenager, Mary, the mother of God, appeared to her and said, “I am the Immaculate Conception” which means “conceived without sin.” Mary was conceived without Original Sin on her soul. Bernadette made known this important Catholic dogma to the entire world.

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**Saint Gianna Molla**

1922-1962

Pro-Life Supporter

Patron Saint of Mothers, Physicians, and Unborn Children

Feast Day: April 28

Gianna Molla was a mother of great ***courage***. She was a physician. When Gianna was expecting her fourth child, a tumor in her uterus was discovered which required surgery. “If you must decide between me and the baby, she told physicians, do not hesitate. Choose the child.” Gianna gave birth to a healthy baby girl on April 21, 1958. A week later, she died. Gianna sacrificed her life in order to save her baby. She reminds us of the need to respect life from the moment of conception until natural death.

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**Saint John Paul II (Karol Józef Wojtyła)**

1920-2005

Promoter of Peace

Patron Saint of World Youth Day

Feast Day: October 22

Karol Wojtyla, a native of Poland, was born in 1920. Karol decided he wanted to become a priest and so entered a secret seminary in Krakow because the Nazis had overtaken Poland and closed the universities. He was ordained a priest in 1946. Thirty two years later, the College of Cardinals elected him pope; he chose to be known as Pope John Paul II (there had been a Pope John Paul in 1978). As Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, John Paul II served tirelessly for 27 years, traveling to more than 100 countries, reaching out to peoples of different faiths and inspiring heads of state from all parts of the world. Because his accomplishments were so extraordinary, many refer to him as John Paul II the Great.

***Compiled by Virginia Prisco***

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